

## SUSTAINED RELEASE BEADLETS CONTAINING STAVUDINE

ABSTRACT

5           Extended dosage forms of stavudine are provided comprising beadlets  
formed by extrusion-spheronization and coated with a seal coating. The beadlets  
are also coated with a modified release coating such that a hard gelatin capsule  
containing such beadlets will provide blood levels of stavudine over  
approximately 24 hours. The beadlets are prepared from a dry blend of stavudine,  
10   a spheronizing agent, a suitable diluent and a stabilizing amount of magnesium  
stearate. The magnesium stearate, in contrast to other similar pharmaceutical  
adjuncts, has been found to stabilize stavudine against degradation due to  
hydrolysis in the presence of the limited amount of water necessary for the  
extrusion-spheronization process. Also included in the scope of the invention are  
15   hard gelatin capsules containing, in addition to the stavudine beadlets, similar  
beadlets containing other therapeutic agents utilized to treat retroviral infections.

09821103-032504